AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A glycoprotein comprising the extracellular domain of a [[A]] non-naturally occurring BAFF-R (BAFF receptor) ~~glycoprotein having a deletion in the extracellular domain which~~, wherein the extracellular domain of the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R ~~glycoprotein~~ has a deletion that results in an altered O-linked glycosylation pattern, and wherein the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R ~~glycoprotein~~ retains the ability to bind to BAFF (B-cell-activating factor of the TNF family).

2. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 1, ~~having~~ wherein the extracellular domain of the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R has at least one O-linked glycan.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the O-linked glycan is attached on an amino acid that corresponds to threonine 18 or threonine 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the O-linked glycan is attached on an amino acid which corresponds to threonine 18, threonine 41, or serine 8 of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 1, wherein the extracellular domain of the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R ~~glycoprotein is human~~ comprises amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 5, wherein the deletion ~~is from~~ corresponds to amino acid 50 to amino acid 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 5, wherein the deletion ~~is from~~ corresponds to amino acid 50 to amino acid 63 of SEQ ID NO:1.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 5, wherein the deletion ~~is from~~ corresponds to amino acid 50 to amino acid 72 of SEQ ID NO:1.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 1, ~~which comprises a polypeptide having~~ wherein the extracellular domain of the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R comprises an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:1 from amino acid 13 to amino acid 43.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 1, ~~which comprises a polypeptide having~~ wherein the extracellular domain of the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R comprises an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:1 from amino acid 14 to amino acid 43.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 5, having at least two amino acid substitutions, wherein the substituted amino ~~acid corresponds~~ acids correspond to amino acid positions 21 and 28 of SEQ ID NO:1.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 1, ~~which comprises a polypeptide having~~ wherein the extracellular domain of the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R glycoprotein consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(d) amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(e) amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1; and

(f) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of ~~claim 12, comprising a polypeptide having~~ claim 1, wherein the extracellular domain of the non-naturally occurring BAFF-R comprises an amino acid sequence from amino acid 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19 of SEQ ID NO:1 to amino acid 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, or 49 of SEQ ID NO:1.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of ~~claim 12~~ claim 13, wherein the amino acid [[at]] corresponding to position 21 of SEQ ID NO:1 is valine and the amino acid [[at]] corresponding to position 28 of SEQ ID NO:1 is leucine.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of ~~claim 12~~ claim 13, wherein the amino acid [[at]] corresponding to position 21 of SEQ ID NO:1 is substituted with asparagine and the amino acid [[at]] corresponding to position 28 of SEQ ID NO:1 is substituted with proline.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of ~~claim 12~~ claim 13, further comprising at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, and optionally a linker joining the ~~polypeptide~~ amino acid sequence to ~~the portion of the~~ said portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, wherein the linker does not include amino acids 50 to 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.

17. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 16, wherein the portion of the immunoglobulin is IgG1 or IgG4.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 17, wherein the portion of the immunoglobulin constant region comprises amino acids 3 to 227 of SEQ ID NO:4.

19. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid encoding the ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein of claim 1.

20. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 19, wherein the encoded ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1

(c) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(d) amino acids 8 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(e) amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(f) amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1; [[or]] and

(g) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7.

21. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 19, comprising nucleotides 1 to 216 of SEQ ID NO:2 or 3.

22. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 19 to 21.

23. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 19 to 21.

24. (Currently amended) A method for producing a ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transforming isolated host cells with the vector of claim 22;

(b) culturing the host cells under conditions permitting production of the ~~the~~ ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein; and

(c) isolating the ~~BAFF-R~~ glycoprotein from the host cells.

25. (Currently amended) A BAFF-R fusion polypeptide comprising:

(a) a first ~~polypeptide comprising~~ amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

(i) amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(ii) amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(iii) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(iv) amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(v) amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1; and

(vi) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7;

fused to

(b) a second amino acid sequence comprising at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, and optionally

(c) a linker joining the first and the second amino acid sequences,

wherein the BAFF-R fusion polypeptide does not include amino acid 50 to amino acid 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (Original) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the linker is proteinaceous.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the first ~~polypeptide~~ amino acid sequence comprises amino acids 8 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the first ~~polypeptide~~ amino acid sequence comprises amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the first ~~polypeptide~~ amino acid sequence comprises amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (Currently amended) A BAFF-R fusion polypeptide comprising: (a) a first ~~polypeptide~~ amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1 modified by amino acid substitutions at positions 21 and 28 of SEQ ID NO:1, fused to (b) a second amino acid sequence comprising at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, and optionally (c) a linker joining the first and second amino acid sequences, wherein the BAFF-R fusion polypeptide does not include amino acids 50 to 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the first ~~polypeptide~~ amino acid sequence comprises amino acid 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19 of SEQ ID NO:1 to amino acid 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, or 49 of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~fused to~~ and the second amino acid sequence comprises amino acids 3 to 227 of SEQ ID NO:4.

34. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid encoding [[a]] the BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25.

35. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 34, comprising nucleotides encoding amino acids 1-227 of SEQ ID NO:4 fused to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(d) amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(e) amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1; and

(f) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7.

36. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 34, comprising (a) nucleotides 1 to 216 of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3 and (b) nucleotides 7 to 681 of SEQ ID NO:5.

37. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acids of any one of claims 34-36.

38. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 34-36.

39. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ~~BAFF-R glycoprotein~~ glycoprotein of claim 1.

40. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently amended) A method for treating a patient having ~~an immunological disorder~~ an autoimmune disease characterized by elevated levels of BAFF comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 39 or claim 40 to ~~a patient in need of treatment~~ the patient~~, thereby treating the immunological disorder~~.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) The ~~BAFF-R glycoprotein~~ glycoprotein of claim 1, having an apparent affinity for BAFF in the nanomolar range.

45. (Original) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, having an apparent affinity for BAFF of at least 10^9 M^{-1}.

46 - 47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) A method for treating a patient having rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 39 or claim 40 to the patient.

49. (New) A method for treating a patient having systemic lupus erythematosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 39 or claim 40 to the patient.